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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1174 (1998) of 15 June 1998. It summarizes the activities of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) since my report of 10 June 1998 (S/1998/491) and provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations system in Bosnia and Herzegovina up to 11 September 1998.

2. UNMIBH continues to be led by my Special Representative and Coordinator of United Nations Operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ms. Elisabeth Rehn (Finland). She is assisted in these tasks by Mr. Richard Monk (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), who serves as Commissioner of the International Police Task Force (IPTF). The authorized strength of IPTF remains at 2,057.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE MISSION

3. IPTF continues the process of changing its focus from general monitoring to more specialized activities: police restructuring in the Federation and the Republika Srpska, training and advising the police, ensuring freedom of movement, and monitoring and conducting investigations into abuses of human rights by local law enforcement agencies.

Police restructuring

4. In the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (the Federation), there has been some progress in the first phase of police restructuring. The Federation Ministry of Interior was inaugurated on 1 July, following long-delayed agreements between Bosniac and Croat officials on ethnic balance and power-sharing within the Ministry and amendments to the Federation Law on Internal Affairs. In addition, Croat and Bosniac officials reached agreement in canton 4 (Zenica) to create joint police structures in the cantonal Ministry of Interior and in police administration throughout the canton. On the other hand, Croat officials continue to impede the inauguration of police services in cantons 8

(Ljubuski) and 10 (Livno) for reasons described in my report of 10 June 1998 (see S/1998/491, paras. 4 and 5). UNMIBH has continued to meet with Croat, Bosniac and Serb officials in these cantons, as well as with Bosniac officials in cantons 1 (Bihac), 5 (Gorazde) and 9 (Sarajevo) to resolve outstanding issues.

5. In preparation for the second phase of police restructuring, which was described in my report of 12 March 1998 (S/1998/227, para. 6), IPTF has begun a systematic assessment of the quality of ongoing police reform in the Federation in order to evaluate the extent to which joint police forces are succeeding at breaking down ethnically based, parallel command structures and establishing standards of democratic policing. In addition, UNMIBH has deployed the first 87 IPTF monitors as advisers co-located with high-level Federation police officials at the federal, cantonal and municipal levels of government. Further, the newly created police assessment teams, which were formerly called contract assurance teams, have completed a reference guide on the status of police reform in the Federation and the Republika Srpska, which provides a benchmark from which strategies for the second phase of police reform are currently being devised.

6. There has been less progress in police restructuring in the Republika Srpska, although 13 IPTF monitors have been co-located with officials in the Ministry of Interior and in selected public security centres. Although the Ministry has downsized the police force considerably to 9,767 officers, this figure is still above the agreed ceiling of 8,500 police officers. The Declaration of the June 1998 Luxembourg Peace Implementation Conference called upon the Republika Srpska Government to appoint 400 minority officers by 31 August 1998 and to create a mixed police force based upon the results of the 1997 municipal elections by 31 December 1998. Minister of Interior Milovan Stankovic subsequently discussed a plan for the deployment of "mixed-police sub-stations", which would consist of an equal mix of Serb and non-Serb police in areas designated for the return of displaced persons and refugees. However, both President Plavsic and Minister Stankovic have maintained that the principles underlying the Luxembourg Declaration are inconsistent with the 24 September 1997 principles of police restructuring, as described in my report of 10 December 1997 (S/1997/966, para. 4). With the 13 September elections quickly approaching, Prime Minister Dodik appeared unable to force progress on UNMIBH's plans for minority recruitment, although he has continued meeting with my Special Representative on these issues. UNMIBH intends to pursue police restructuring in the Republika Srpska even more vigorously after the national elections and the appointment of a new government.

7. Future progress in police restructuring will depend increasingly upon the receipt of assistance (in uniforms and equipment) provided through the Trust Fund for the Police Assistance Programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which provides funds for technical and material assistance to local police forces. To date, the Fund has received US$ 8,140,046, of which $7,198,069 has been used for programme activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and $941,977 for programme support costs. The generous assistance extended by the Governments of Canada, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, Switzerland, Italy and the United Kingdom will help sustain the present pace of police restructuring. UNMIBH has completed the initial stage of a review of the Trust Fund which has uncovered a shortfall of $67 million for the anticipated local police development

programmes. I appeal to Governments of other countries to also contribute to the IPTF Trust Fund.

Police training

8. IPTF's training and certification programme continues to help promote principles and practices of democratic policing and the depoliticization of the police as central elements of police reform. In the Federation, 10,344 officers (90 per cent) of the 11,500 authorized officers have completed the week-long human dignity class and 6,397 (55 per cent of the total force) have completed the three-week transitional training class that reviews basic policing skills and elaborates on democratic policing techniques. Completion of these two courses is required for IPTF certification of individual police officers. Certification and issuance of identification cards for the entire Federation police force should be completed by December 1998. Since July 1998, IPTF has conducted background checks for 559 newly recruited officers in the Federation. In the Republika Srpska, 5,793 (68 per cent) of the 8,500 authorized officers have completed the human dignity class, but only 599 (7 per cent of the total) have taken the transitional training class. Under the supervision of IPTF's Specialized Training Unit, 223 Federation police officers have completed training in techniques of crowd control, 711 have completed training in border control and 29 are undergoing a course in basic dog handling.

9. Efforts continue to be made to assist local police in developing modern police academies. The Federation police academy moved to Vraca in July 1998 and will continue to offer basic training to police recruits, as well as IPTF courses in human dignity and transitional training. IPTF has begun cooperating with the federal and cantonal Ministries of Interior to recruit minority candidates to participate in the next police academy class.

10. As described in my report of 8 September 1997 (see S/1997/694, para. 8), and in accordance with an agreement with the stabilization force (SFOR) led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), IPTF has begun to evaluate and re-train officers from the Republika Srpska police anti-terrorist brigade. This training will enable officers who successfully complete the IPTF transition training and certification programme to revert from SFOR to IPTF monitoring and be eligible to be recruited into a new organization called the special police service or into local police forces. However, of the 515 officers from the brigade who have undergone an initial review by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, 131 will undergo in-depth review as regards their possible involvement in war crimes by IPTF monitors deployed at the Tribunal.

11. Following recommendations of the Peace Implementation Conferences held in London and Bonn and in accordance with Security Council resolution 1168 (1998) of 21 May 1998, UNMIBH has recruited 30 specialist monitors to staff the Drug Control, Organized Crime, and Public Order and Critical Incident Management Units. Officers in these units have now begun to develop training programmes for local police in these areas and conducted some initial training.

12. UNMIBH has recently embarked upon regionally based projects to develop standards for local police performance, including systems for personnel management that would maintain the desired ethnic balance while maintaining good

police service, and of including local police in its assessment of the reform. As the Mission continues to develop its internal capacity to manage the full range of information necessary for police reform, it will require material support in these efforts.

Freedom of movement

13. IPTF has continued to promote freedom of movement in and between both entities. Under the traffic control and crime policy, which developed out of the successful implementation of the checkpoint policy (S/1997/468, para. 5), IPTF continues to approve fewer than 10 checkpoints per day for the entire country. UNMIBH has begun to encourage local police to replace checkpoints with mobile and foot patrols for normal crime prevention, detection, security and safety-related policing tasks. It also encourages police officials from the Federation and the Republika Srpska to share information and collaborate in investigations.

14. UNMIBH's close cooperation with the Office of the High Representative in introducing common licence plates and vehicle registration documents throughout the country has provided the most significant single advance in freedom of movement. The project is near completion. Interior Ministry authorities in both entities have reported that the distribution of licence plates and documents proceeded more quickly than originally estimated. In order to measure the project's effect on the willingness of the public to travel, IPTF monitored on a daily basis the number of vehicles crossing the inter-entity boundary line at nine different points and compiled statistical data which showed a 100 per cent increase in movements. To account for delays in producing additional licence plates and vehicle registration documents and to minimize problems facing voters in vehicles with old plates during the election period, the Office of the High Representative extended the deadline by which all Bosnian vehicles must bear the new licence plate from 31 August to 30 September.

Weapons inspections

15. IPTF continues to cooperate with SFOR in conducting weapons inspections on police facilities. The frequency of inspections has decreased with the decreasing number of violations. In the period between 20 May and 31 August 1998, 176 weapons inspections were performed: 82 in the Republika Srpska and 94 in the Federation. Weapons were discovered at 14 sites in the Republika Srpska and at 3 sites in the Federation. SFOR confiscated a total 58 weapons, 78 grenades and 1,410 rounds of ammunition.

Cooperation with other international organizations

16. UNMIBH continues to work closely with other international agencies. The Mission cooperated with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in preparation for the 13 September 1998 elections. It secured the agreement of the Ministers of Interior of both entities for security during the election, monitored security arrangements by the local police for the transport of election material and advised local police on security plans for election day. UNMIBH also continues its close cooperation with the Office of the High Representative and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees (UNHCR) in support of the return of displaced persons and refugees. It works with local police to prepare security plans for assessment visits and return. It has begun to work closely with the Office of the High Representative, SFOR and the European Union Customs and Fiscal Assistance Organization in establishing a single border police that will cover the entire country.

Investigation of human rights violations by local law enforcement personnel

17. In accordance with its mandate to investigate human rights abuses by law enforcement personnel and to report on progress made by the authorities in addressing such abuses, UNMIBH's Human Rights Office has paid close attention to the response of the local police to return-related, politically motivated and gender-related human rights abuses in Bugojno, Stolac, Capljina, Mostar, Doljani, Velika Kladusa, Klisa, Drvar, Gradiska, Kotor Varos and the Brcko Supervisory Area. From 1 January to 1 September 1998, the office opened human rights investigations of 1,487 incidents and closed 629 cases. These cases generally relate to direct abuse by police and other law enforcement agencies, to local police negligence in responding to violations against minorities and to property disputes involving abuses by municipalities, housing and judicial authorities. In response to developments in Drvar and Pale, IPTF created investigation support teams to augment the investigations by the Human Rights Office.

18. On 3 July, the Human Rights Office released a report on 37 return-related incidents in canton 7 (Mostar), including fires, explosions, stoning and harassment against Bosniac returnees in Croat majority areas, which have occurred in Stolac, Capljina, Doljani and Mostar from March through June 1998. The UNMIBH report urged the Minister to ensure the functioning of the Ministry as a unified organization with clear lines of communication, to set up effective oversight mechanisms, to improve the quality of police investigations, to promptly prepare security plans and to introduce concepts of community policing. The response of canton 7 police has been inadequate and few recommendations have so far been implemented. Local police have not arrested any suspects in relation to these incidents. UNMIBH continues to cooperate with the Office of the High Representative in pressing cantonal authorities to take appropriate action.

19. On 17 July, the UNMIBH Human Rights Office also released a report on the response of local authorities to a double murder of Serb returnees and subsequent rioting by Croats in Drvar in April 1998 (S/1998/491, paras. 23 and 24). The investigation found the response of the Drvar police to the murders and riots to have been inadequate and incompatible with their obligations to provide protection to all citizens of Drvar. In a letter to local authorities accompanying the report, the IPTF Commissioner demanded that the Drvar and cantonal police immediately intensify investigation actions and initiate an internal investigation into the response to the riots by the Drvar police. While local police have taken some steps to respond to these demands, including the filing of minor charges against some participants in the riots, compliance has generally been inadequate. UNMIBH is continuing to cooperate with the Office of the High Representative in pressing local authorities for appropriate action, including an independent investigation.

20. Following UNMIBH's investigation into allegations of torture and ill-treatment by Teslic police (ibid., para. 25), UNMIBH's Human Rights Office released a report of an investigation into three cases of torture and abuse, which was conducted by a commission established by the Republika Srpska Minister of Internal Affairs. The Commission's finding, that Teslic police officers had abused their authority, led to disciplinary proceedings against 32 police officers and criminal charges against 10 of them. A total of 17 officers were suspended from duty in July.

21. On 23 June, the UNMIBH Human Rights Office established an investigation support team to monitor the local police investigations (including those conducted by a team from the Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs) and to carry out its own independent investigation of a series of murders of Bosnian Croats in the area of Travnik and Vitez in canton 6. IPTF's independent investigative work has led the Federation Ministry investigators to pursue several significant leads not previously considered. The IPTF investigation of these murders is ongoing.

22. Another investigation support team has been deployed to look into activities surrounding the murder on 8 August of the Deputy Chief of the Pale Public Security Centre. On 18 August, the IPTF investigators discovered and obtained the release of seven illegally detained men who had been held in a factory for nine days and were allegedly physically abused by the Ministry of Interior's investigation team. In addition, the seven persons officially charged in the murder have alleged to IPTF that they underwent physical abuse during interrogations by the Republika Srpska police officials. Further information uncovered during the course of the IPTF investigation has revealed other possible misconduct and abuse carried out by the Republika Srpska police during its investigation of the murder. The IPTF investigation of these developments is ongoing.

Civil affairs

23. UNMIBH's civil affairs officers have continued to work closely with IPTF on issues of police restructuring, freedom of movement and human rights. They have helped to develop a strategy to recruit and return displaced minority police officers into police forces in the Federation and the Republika Srpska. They have served with IPTF in police assessment teams and investigation support teams. In cooperation with the Office of the High Representative, the Civil Affairs Office has overseen the implementation by Bosnian officials of the introduction of the new common licence plate and common registration document. Civil affairs officers have worked closely in the project monitoring increases of freedom of movement across the inter-entity boundary line and across international borders. They have now begun closely cooperating with IPTF and the Office of the High Representative in developing a strategy for a Bosnian border police. They have cooperated with IPTF and the OSCE in preparation for the 13 September 1998 elections.

24. Under the direction of my Special Representative, UNMIBH's Civil Affairs Office has worked closely with United Nations agencies who seek to address the daunting reconstruction needs in Srebrenica. Civil affairs officers continue to cooperate with UNHCR and the Return and Reconstruction Task Force on the

question of return of refugees and displaced persons. The Civil Affairs Office's good offices enabled Bosniac authorities in Gorazde and Serb authorities in municipalities surrounding Gorazde to reach agreement on economic cooperation and on mutual assistance in emergency situations.

25. The civil affairs training unit has processed over 700 IPTF monitors since 1 June 1998 through induction-level courses on Bosnian history, politics, the culture of negotiation and cooperation with other international agencies. It has developed a new elections monitoring module and has begun cooperating more closely with the IPTF Internal Training and Support Section in standardizing and improving the overall level of instruction in UNMIBH training. It has continued an extensive field familiarization programme for the newly arriving civil affairs officers and has begun producing reference material for IPTF and civil affairs offices throughout the Mission. The training unit has also organized workshops on Serb issues and Bosnian property law for civil affairs, IPTF and human rights officers, as well as a presentation on the 13 September elections for all UNMIBH staff by the Head of the OSCE mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Judicial system assessment

26. By its resolution 1184 (1998) of 16 July 1998, the Security Council approved the establishment by UNMIBH of a programme to monitor and assess the court system in Bosnia and Herzegovina as part of an overall programme of legal reform coordinated by the High Representative. During the reporting period, UNMIBH made progress in establishing the programme, known as the Judicial System Assessment Programme.

27. My Special Representative has discussed the new mandate with judicial authorities and legal associations in the Federation and the Republika Srpska, who have welcomed the programme as central to judicial reform. UNMIBH has continued its close cooperation with other international agencies in developing the programme. On the basis of an exchange of letters between myself and the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe at the beginning of 1998, a Council of Europe consultant has advised UNMIBH on the formulation of a methodology for operations of the programme.

28. UNMIBH has completed its selection of 18 international lawyers and 8 local lawyers for the programme and they are expected to join UNMIBH shortly. Preparations are already advanced for an initial three-week training in the political context and legal systems of Bosnia and Herzegovina upon their arrival. Legal experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina and from the Council of Europe have indicated their willingness to provide training on the Bosnian legal systems and on the European Convention. Senior officers within UNMIBH have been fully acquainted with the plans for operations of the programme and details of its organizational relations with other parts of the Mission. Plans have been made to coordinate the programme's activities with the daily work of IPTF and civil affairs.

Trust Fund

29. The Trust Fund Unit continued to monitor the implementation of quick impact fund projects in Sarajevo Canton. Additionally, the Unit and UNMIBH Finance

made further progress in the financial reconciliation of Trust Fund and quick impact fund projects. On 1 September, UNMIBH reorganized the management of the Sarajevo Trust Fund and the trust fund for the Police Assistance Programme into a single unit.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

30. As described in my report of 10 June 1998 (S/1998/491), my Special Representative has continued to focus on the common concerns of the various United Nations agencies operating in Bosnia and Herzegovina, has regularly briefed the agencies on UNMIBH's approach to developments in the country and has given them advice on security in the mission area. The agencies have focused on activities to ease the distress of the present inhabitants of Srebrenica and have maintained their focus on developing educational curricula without hate propaganda in history and language.

International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

31. The International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia has the mandate to prosecute persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991. The Sarajevo Field Office, one of three field offices established by the Tribunal, was opened in August 1996 to support the investigative effort of the Office of the Prosecutor in The Hague. As a result of its investigations, the Tribunal has charged a total of 75 persons by open indictments. Following the withdrawal of indictments against 11 of them in May 1998, 21 public indictments are pending against 59 individuals, together with a number of sealed indictments. Of the total indictments, 26 persons are in custody with six ongoing trials. The exhumations programme for summer 1998 to gather evidence has shown positive results. About 500 remains have been recovered at seven sites. Clothing and other personal effects have also been recovered for identification purposes. Many of the bodies were found blindfolded and with their hands tied behind their backs, indicating that they had been executed.

International Labour Organization

32. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has continued to focus on training the vulnerable unemployed in construction trades in the north-west of the Federation (funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)); training the unemployed in electrical and mechanical trades in Gorazde (funded by the Government of Japan and UNDP); promoting micro-enterprise development through the new business development centres near Brcko, Bihac, Banja Luka and Mostar and preparing for the establishment of similar centres around Sarajevo (funded by the Government of Italy and UNDP); and promoting social dialogue (funded by the Government of Italy).

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

33. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. in cooperation with the UNMIBH Human Rights Office, has been conducting a human rights training project for IPTF monitors initiated in June 1998. It also

supported the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Jiri Dienstbier, and organized his mission to the country from 4 to 9 July. In the field of judicial reform, the Office provided expertise to a team working on reformed criminal codes in the Republika Srpska, monitored war crimes trials and carried out a survey assessing needs in the courts in the Republika Srpska. In addition, staff of the Office supported the work and implementation of the decisions of the national human rights institutions, continued efforts to promote the implementation of gender-related activities in the work of United Nations offices and agencies, and participated in working groups aiming to find solutions to the human rights problems related to the educational system in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

34. My Special Representative and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights have exchanged letters to ensure closer cooperation between the Office and UNMIBH. Under the agreed terms of reference, my Special Representative will exercise operational authority over the daily activities of the Office, which will continue to receive substantive guidance, funding and administrative support from the High Commissioner. The Office of the High Commissioner will continue to support the work of the Special Rapporteur, whose independence will be guaranteed under the new arrangements.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

35. UNHCR continued its efforts to implement annex 7 to the Dayton Peace Agreement. Since January 1998, some 90,000 refugees and displaced persons have returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Almost 50,000 of them returned under the German Government return programme, with returns significantly increasing during the period from June to August 1998. Most of the returnees originate from the Republika Srpska and the majority are currently housed in the Sarajevo and Tuzla areas.

36. The number of returns for the Republika Srpska has increased significantly from 230, reported in June, to 2,440 persons since January 1998. The number of displaced persons who have returned to their pre-war residences in Bosnia and Herzegovina since January is estimated at 9,340. A total of 6,063 refugees and displaced persons have returned to minority areas, with Drvar (estimated at 1,223) and Sarajevo (estimated at 998) recording the highest numbers. In addition, returns are taking place without being registered with the local authorities.

37. UNHCR continued to promote minority return with the declaration of three new "open cities" in the Federation (Ilidza, Zavidovici and Tuzla), bringing the total number of "open cities" to 14. There have now been more than 10,000 minority returns to the "open cities". UNHCR also promoted freedom of movement through about 20 inter-entity bus lines, with some 570,500 persons travelling on them this year.

38. UNHCR continued, together with the Office of the High Representative, to support the entity ministries responsible for the return and support of displaced persons. The two offices also continued to monitor the implementation of the new property legislation passed by the Federation in April 1998. The Republika Srpska National Assembly is expected to pass its property legislation

after the September general elections. UNHCR continues to work with the Off of the High Representative and the Council of Europe in assisting both entit in drafting new legislation on citizenship, immigration and asylum. Since June 1998, UNHCR has registered 1,937 asylum-seekers from Kosovo. Some 4,70 refugees from that region are now estimated to be in Bosnia and Herzegovina. UNHCR has responded to their accommodation needs and is supporting the authorities in creating a legal framework concerning asylum-seekers.

United Nations Children's Fund

39. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) held its mid-year reviews w its sectoral counterparts in the entities. The group found progress in implementation satisfactory and made immediate plans for inter-sectoral cooperation for implementing health, education and psychosocial projects. I the meantime, regular activities continued. In the health area, UNICEF proc vaccines and materials to preserve them. In education, UNICEF prepared mine awareness materials, including printed and audio-visual segments, to educate children. In the psychosocial area, UNICEF extended support to foster-famil to include creation of parent support groups and provision of supplies for foster-families and children in Prijedor and Gorazde. It also extended a project aimed at integrating mentally handicapped children into the regular schools to cover 12 areas in the country. Within its advocacy programme, UN also organized an animation workshop for children in Prijedor, creating an animated film on children's rights entitled "Lighthouse".

United Nations Development Programme

40. UNDP continues to focus its activities on multisectoral area-based development programmes. These programmes combine physical rehabilitation an socio-economic infrastructure with community development efforts, such as housing reconstruction, public works and business development. They create environment which allows for the return of refugees and displaced persons an their smooth reintegration in the population at large. The programmes increasingly place responsibility for management of the services to local authorities. UNDP's Village Employment and Environment Programme (VEEP) has extended its activities to eastern Republika Srpska. As a short-term bridgi measure, VEEP provides limited employment while helping to improve seriously damaged infrastructure and the environment. These activities are combined w vocational training programmes and small-and-medium-enterprise development programmes to ensure sustainability. In addition, UNDP supports capacity an institution-building for gender integration and complements local initiative for gender equality and the advancement of women in the political, economic social spheres.

41. Demining responsibilities were officially handed over to the Government July 1998, thereby establishing the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Programme, which expands the capacity built earlier by the United Nations Mi Action Centre. The programme operates through the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mi Action Centre in Sarajevo, which is responsible for overall coordination and guidance of mine clearing actions in the country. It also operates through entity mine action centres, which are responsible for clearing mines in thei respective areas. The Government has also deployed nine demining teams

throughout the country. The minefield database continues to be updated. UNDP trains managers for the Government who are responsible for implementing the four component programmes (mine awareness, minefield survey, mine clearance and training). In addition, UNDP works jointly with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and UNICEF on a mine awareness campaign.

42. The Mine Action Programme is financed by various donors through the UNDP Trust Fund for Mine Clearance, which was instituted November 1997. The programme still faces a funding gap of $15 million, which UNDP is urgently seeking to close.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

43. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) continued its work in cooperation with other international organizations in developing new curricula for the country's schools. It has also worked with the Ministry of Education of Sarajevo Canton in removing discriminatory material from humanities textbooks in use in the canton. In addition to educational projects noted in the last report, UNESCO is undertaking the rehabilitation of primary and secondary schools in the cantons of Sarajevo and Zenica-Doboj. UNESCO has also cooperated with the Ministry of Education of Podrinje Canton in assessing equipment and furniture needs in the canton schools and will fund them. On 30 July, UNESCO, the World Bank and the City of Mostar simultaneously issued a joint statement on their partnership for the reconstruction of the Old Bridge in Mostar. In September, UNESCO will begin reconstruction of the Tabacica mosque.

The World Bank

44. The World Bank continues to implement a diverse reconstruction and development programme, which remains focused on its three key elements: donor coordination, project implementation and support for the country's transition to a market economy through economic policy advice and budget/balance-of-payment support. After another successful donors' conference held this past May in Brussels organized jointly by the Bank and the European Commission, at which donors pledged a further $1.25 billion to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Bank has continued to oversee the implementation of the 24 reconstruction projects it has funded together with other donors. Several of these projects are now almost or fully completed, and the Bank is increasingly focusing its efforts on sector and economic reforms which will foster self-sustained growth. In addition, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank Group institution which supports the private sector, has stepped up its investments in the country and recently financed a line of credit for woodworking companies.

45. Operations recently approved by the World Bank Board include a second electric power reconstruction project, a forestry project and a public finance structural adjustment credit in both entities, as well as a pilot line of credit for the Republika Srpska. After having funded housing reconstruction in UNHCR target zones, micro-credit and local infrastructure, the Bank is now preparing a local development project to help municipalities obtain credit for priority social and economic infrastructure projects. Other projects under preparation include a banking and enterprise structural adjustment credit to assist the

entities in implementing their privatization strategy, a basic health project to establish a cost-effective, community-based primary health-care system and improve health sector management, and a pilot cultural heritage project. This last project will be undertaken in coordination with UNESCO and will fund and oversee the reconstruction of the Mostar bridge and the restoration of the old town in order to foster reconciliation and enhance multi-ethnic cooperation. The project will also help strengthen the country's capacity to manage its cultural heritage. In addition, the Bank is working closely with UNESCO on a grass-roots employment project in fashion apparel production for displaced and refugee women.

World Food Programme

46. In August, the World Food Programme (WFP) concluded the alignment of beneficiary criteria with government social welfare criteria. Local authorities welcomed the new criteria and implemented them throughout most of the country under close monitoring by WFP staff. The current WFP beneficiary caseload is 253,000, which is approximately 10 per cent of the population. This figure will fluctuate depending upon the situation of refugees, displaced persons, returnees and war-affected people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but is unlikely to change substantially during the phase-out of WFP's emergency food aid operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is scheduled to be completed by mid-1999. Other agencies, such as International Orthodox Christian Charities, Adventist Development Relief Agency, American Red Cross and Catholic Relief Services, which have food aid programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, have also implemented the same criteria, thereby ensuring continuity and avoiding duplication. These agencies cater to approximately 104,000 food aid beneficiaries. Currently, there are major gaps in the food pipeline, with no food available for September or October distribution. WFP is concerned that food aid requirements will not be fully met during the crucial phase-out period of the programme.

World Health Organization

47. The World Health Organization (WHO) continued to support the entities' Ministries of Health in reforming programmes in health-care delivery and preventive health. In the Republika Srpska, health authorities are developing detailed operational plans based on their Strategic Plan for Health Care Reform, approved in May 1997. WHO also helped to develop the Federation's Strategic Plan for health-care reform. Moreover, WHO also continues to promote reconciliation by bringing together health professionals from different ethnic groups on a regular basis. WHO experts continued to train family medicine teams and helped local authorities address key public health issues, such as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, vaccination and environmental health.

IV. OBSERVATIONS

48. Changes to UNMIBH's mandate over the past two years reflect a recognition of the importance of peace-building activities for the security and protection of the population, with a focus on reforming civilian police, respecting human rights and strengthening the judicial system. Against this background, UNMIBH's mandate of police restructuring has grown to include independent investigations

into human rights abuses by the local police and the identification of technical, institutional and political impediments to achieving a depoliticized judiciary capable of delivering impartial and neutral justice. The quick recruitment of highly qualified legal experts for the Judicial System Assessment Programme was a positive development worth noting.

49. UNMIBH's progress on its central task of police reform will depend in large measure, as noted in Security Council resolution 1174 (1998), on the quality, experience and professional skills of its personnel. The call for highly qualified police officers, which has been reiterated in practically every resolution and document of the Peace Implementation Conference, reflects the way in which police peacekeeping missions should evolve more generally. IPTF continues to require senior officers - from regional commanders to station commanders to those IPTF advisers co-located with the local police leadership - who possess the requisite leadership and management skills and who are well versed in democratic policing practices. UNMIBH's Human Rights Office also needs additional qualified IPTF monitors to undertake independent investigations. IPTF training units require monitors with experience in instruction and course development. As UNMIBH moves to increase its emphasis upon community policing in multi-ethnic communities, the traditional policing skills of IPTF monitors must be augmented by experience in policy assessment, policy development and public administration.

50. The introduction of a common licence plate for Bosnia and Herzegovina has been a major step forward in the implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace. The country is no longer rigidly divided into three separate ethnic territories. Movement across the inter-entity boundary line has increased by more than 100 per cent and interactions between the members of the different communities are now common. This progress towards forging a single state out of areas controlled by the three communities needs to be strengthened. The most recent meeting of the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Conference in Luxembourg (see S/1998/498) asked UNMIBH to facilitate the introduction of a State-level border police for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Such a force would replace the single-community police forces that presently control stretches of the international borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina. If successfully deployed, such a force would further strengthen Bosnia and Herzegovina as a State, at the expense of the entities. UNMIBH intends to devote significant resources to this project in the coming months and to work closely with the Office of the High Representative, SFOR and the Customs and Fiscal Assistance Organization to ensure its rapid implementation. As with the licence-plate project, nearby States will be asked to assist with the implementation measures.

51. The period under review illustrates the complex conditions under which UNMIBH is implementing its mandate. The entity Governments have been faced with the prospect of large-scale returns of refugees from abroad as Bosnia and Herzegovina's second post-war national elections are being held. The election campaign has enabled officials to divert pressure to create multi-ethnic, restructured police services, which are an essential condition for the return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes - especially in areas that are under the de facto control of another ethnic group. UNMIBH's cooperation with UNHCR, SFOR, the Office of the High Representative and the Organization for

Security and Cooperation in Europe is essential to progress in these interrelated goals. I would emphasize, as I have done previously, that the strong and consistent support of SFOR will continue to be critically important in providing adequate security arrangements for the successful implementation of UNMIBH's mandate. I also appeal to the Governments of the States members of the Security Council to extend their full support to UNMIBH's efforts to implement the mandate entrusted to it under annex 11 to the Dayton Agreement of creating multi-ethnic police services in the Federation and the Republika Srpska.

Annex

Composition of the International Police Task Force as at 10 September 1998

Argentina	33
Austria	38
Bangladesh	31
Bulgaria	41
Canada	29
Chile	29
Denmark	40
Egypt	34
Estonia	5
Fiji	7
Finland	27
France	125
Germany	163
Ghana	100
Greece	15
Hungary	35
Iceland	3
India	106
Indonesia	22
Ireland	35
Italy	23
Jordan	150
Kenya	11

Malaysia	47
Nepal	41
Netherlands	54
Nigeria	19
Norway	24
Pakistan	96
Poland	32
Portugal	60
Romania	10
Russian Federation	35
Senegal	18
Spain	59
Sweden	50
Switzerland	2
Thailand	3
Tunisia	2
Turkey	27
Ukraine	36
United Kingdom	70
United States of America	193
Total	1 980

The number of civilian police monitors varies owing to ongoing contingent rotations.